

TESTIMONY REGARDING HB-5140: AN ACT CONCERNING THE HAND-HARVESTING
OF HORSESHOE CRABS IN THE STATE

Appropriations Committee

February 25, 2022

Presented By: Kathleen Callahan, MSW

Dear Honorable Chairpersons Cohen and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, Vice Chairs Slap and Palm, and all other distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Kathleen Callahan, a resident of Stratford, and I am writing in support of *HB-5140: An Act Concerning the Hand-Harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs in the State*.

I am not an environmental expert and all of you know much more about this issue than I do – the importance of horseshoe crabs to marine biodiversity, the health of our oceans, and restoring and maintaining ecosystems; the key role they play in medicine thanks to their toxin-sensitive blood; and the timeless connection to dinosaurs, multiple ice ages, and great extinctions – 450 million years! They are these amazing “living fossils” that deserve protection.

I live in a coastal community and see these unique, exquisite creatures on our shores. My friend helps turn them right-side up when the waves cause them to flip on their shells, educating beachgoers on their significant role in our lives and the importance of their safety and protection.

We all benefit from their continued existence and harvesting, including eggs, outside of educational, scientific, and biomedical purposes approved by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection should be completely banned in Connecticut.

With respect and gratitude for work on behalf of the residents of our state,

Kathleen Callahan
Stratford, CT